

Wisconsin Interpretation
GROUP CENTERS – ECERS-R
10/7/13

As technical assistance occurs in child care programs, it is important for YoungStar Technical Consultants, providers, and other trainers/technical assistance providers to provide information on what the ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R or SACERS tools will be looking at, and also what the intent is of the ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R or SACERS observation.

The Wisconsin Interpretations are given precedence when the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Wisconsin licensing regulations are determined to be in contrast to each other at the 1 (inadequate), 3 (minimal) or 5 (good) levels of the indicators for the specific items of the ERS. The Wisconsin Interpretation Explanation section following the ERS items and specific indicators has the explanations for the Wisconsin Interpretations.

Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - Revised (ECERS-R)

Hand washing will be scored as intended by the authors*. 20 seconds minimal for hand washing and staff hand washing should occur prior to diapering.

“Keep out of the Reach of Children” will be scored as intended by the authors as locked away.

****See Item 14.**

Item 7. Space for gross motor play.

1.2 Gross motor space is very dangerous (Ex. Access requires long walk on busy street; same space used for play and parking lot; unfenced area for preschoolers).

When scoring ECERS-R 1.2, *NA (Not applicable) is permitted*. See Explanation.

AND

3.2 Gross motor space is generally safe. (Ex. Sufficient cushioning under climbing equipment; fenced in outdoor area).

When scoring ECERS-R 3.2, *NA (Not applicable) is permitted*. See Explanation.

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EXPLANATION: *NA permitted* for the outdoor space if children do not use the equipment for lack of cushioning material when there is snow on the playground. Snow does not provide for adequate surfacing and if the playground has snow on it, the children cannot be on any equipment over 18 inches tall (the height that requires cushioning for head injuries). Children can use other portable equipment or programs can choose to have the playground cleared of snow.

Item 9. Greeting/departing.

5.3 Parents greeted warmly by staff. When scoring ECERS-R 5.3, *NA (Not applicable) is permitted*.

See Notes for Clarification.

AND

7.3 Staff uses greeting and departure as information sharing time with parents.

When scoring ECERS-R 7.3, *NA (Not applicable) is permitted*. See Notes for Clarification.

ECERS-R NOTES FOR CLARIFICATION: *NA permitted* is allowed if children are not brought to the program by their parents. 1.3 and 3.3 can be answered with asking the question of "Could you describe what happens each day when the children and parents arrive and leave?" Observation of greeting and departure of each child in the class is not required to score the items. Scores can be based on greetings and or departures observed and information generalized to come to a scoring decision.

1.3 Parents are not allowed to bring children into the classroom.

3.3 Parents allowed to bring children into the classroom.

This indicator does NOT require that all parents bring their children into the classroom, but that they are allowed to do so any time they wish. There can be nothing preventing this practice.

Item 10. Meals/snacks.

Item 12. Toileting/diapering.

Item 13. Health practices.

Items 10, 12 and 13 specific to hand washing. See Explanation.

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EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules: Disinfecting hand sanitizers may not replace the use of soap and water when washing hands. Staff and children will need to use water and soap or soap and water-based wet wipes. Disinfecting hand sanitizers are not allowed.

Item 12. Toileting/diapering.

In this case the goal of the item 12 (page 28) Toileting/diapering is to "minimize the spread of germs in the early childhood classroom." (*All About ECERS-R*, page 111).

The quality indicators identified within this item begin with the indicator 1.1: Sanitary conditions of area are not maintained (Ex. Toilet/sinks dirty; diapering table/potty chairs not sanitized after each use, toilets rarely flushed).

Within the Notes for Clarification (page 29) - in the ECERS-R tool 1.1 indicates " If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including tooth brushing) or for other purposes (to wash toys/other classroom equipment; after wiping nose), it must be sanitized by spraying sink and faucets with a bleach solution after diapering/toileting use. As an exception to this rule, in order to avoid requiring children to wash hands in quick succession between toileting and being fed, the following applies: if children use toilet, wash hands and then immediately sit down for meal/snack, contamination of children's hands at toileting sink must be minimized by having children/adults turn off faucet with paper towel.

Further additional information in the *All About ECERS-R* page 112 indicates: If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including brushing teeth) or for other purposes (for example, to wash toys or other classroom equipment), it must be sanitized after diaper/toileting use by spraying the sinks and faucets with a bleach solution. All use of the sink for one purpose can be completed before the sink needs to be sanitized for another use.

Item 11. Nap.

1.2 Nap/rest provisions unsanitary (Ex. Crowded area, dirty sheets, different children use same bedding).

AND

3.2 Healthful provisions for nap/rest. (Ex. Area not crowded, clean bedding).

(Cots/mats are at least 18 inches apart, unless separated by a solid barrier.)

Each child who has a nap or rest period shall be provided with an individual bed, cot, sleeping bag, 2-inch thick mat, crib or playpen, which is placed at least 18 inches from the next sleeping child. Cribs or cots may be placed end-to-end if a solid partition is separating the cribs or cots.

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EXPLANATION: Wisconsin Licensing Rules – Each child who has a nap or rest period shall be provided with an individual bed, cot, sleeping bag, 2-inch thick mat, crib or playpen, which is placed at least 2 feet from the next sleeping child. Cribs or cots must have a solid partition separating children and an aisle not less than 2 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots. Cribs or cots may be placed end-to-end if a solid partition separates children (does not need to be extended from floor to ceiling) and an aisle not less than 2 feet in width is maintained between cribs and cots. Solid screens or other barriers, such as crib ends or toy shelves that extend from floor to ceiling are not required, however, there must still be a solid partition separating children.

When scoring the ECERS-R, 1.1 will be scored as NO. 3.2 will be scored as YES.

Item 14. Safety practices.

1.2 Several hazards that could result in serious injury outdoors.

When scoring ECERS-R 1.2, *NA (Not applicable) is permitted*. See Explanation.

AND

3.1 No major safety hazards indoors or outdoors.

When scoring ECERS-R 3.1, *NA (Not applicable) is permitted*. See Explanation.

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EXPLANATION: *NA Permitted* for the outdoor space if children do not use the equipment for lack of cushioning material when there is snow on the playground. Snow does not provide for adequate surfacing and if the playground has snow on it, the children cannot be on any equipment over 18 inches tall (the height that requires cushioning for head injuries). Children can use other portable equipment or programs can choose to have the playground cleared of snow.

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Over-the-Counter Medications/Sunscreen/Bug Spray Hand Lotion.

For the purposes of YoungStar, the Wisconsin Licensing Rules will apply to over-the-counter medications as written in the Wisconsin Licensing Rules 250, 251, 252, 202.

Wisconsin Licensing Rules: Center staff may give prescription or non-prescription medication, such as pain relievers, teething gels or cough syrup, to a child only under the following conditions:

- a written authorization that includes the child's name and birthdate,

- name of medication,
- administration instructions,
- medication intervals and
- length of the authorization dated and signed by the parent is on file.

Blanket authorizations that exceed the length of time specified on the label are prohibited. The center may develop its own form or may accept a written authorization from the parent in the form of a note, but either format must include the child's name and date of birth, the name of the medication and administration instructions, the medication interval and the length of the authorization and it must be signed and dated by the parent. The parent's authorization may not exceed the time specified on the label of the medication (usually 7 – 10 days). Sunscreen and insect repellent may only be applied upon the written authorization of the parent. All medications shall be stored so that they are not accessible to children. **"Keep out of the Reach of Children" will be scored as intended by the authors as locked away.**

Final determination of any Wisconsin modified scoring must continue to meet all Wisconsin licensing and certification health and safety standards.

Notes

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